

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
----- 062950

R 181230Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2393

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER NKOMO SAYS IMMUNITY ISSUE
RESOLVED

REF: LUSAKA 2241

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO RETURNED TO LUSAKA FOR DAR ON NOV. 17, FOLLOWING TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE. NKOMO REPORTEDLY TOLD WAITING PRESS THAT QUESTION OF IMMUNITY FOR NATIONALISTS LIABLE TO ARREST BY RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN THRASHED OUT WITH SMITH GOVERNMENT. WHAT REMAINS, NKOMO SAID, WILL BE COVERED IN NEXT ROUND OF PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH SMITH TO BE HELD WITHIN TEN DAYS. NKOMO EXPECTS REACH AGREEMENT WITH SMITH AT THAT TIME ON BASIS FOR RENEWED CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. NKOMO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IMMUNITIES BEING SOUGHT
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NOT FOR ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS BUT FOR ALL ZIMBABWEANS.

2. NKOMO SAID THAT IT WAS SMITH WHO HAD APPROACHED NKOMO TO RENEW DISCUSSIONS BEGUN AT VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE IN AUGUST. SAID HE INTENDS PURSUE TALKS TO "THEIR LOGICAL CONCLUSION" AND END WITH CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT; OTHERWISE, "WE WILL TELL THE PEOPLE WE HAVE FAILED AND INEVITABLY OUR ARMED STRUGGLE WILL BE INTENSIFIED." NKOMO INSISTED HIS ANC FACTION IN RHODESIA WILL NOT DEPART FROM ITS DEMAND FOR MAJORITY RULE.

3. NKOMO ALSO GOT OFF BARBED COMMENT ON MUZOREWA ANC FACTION, REMARKING HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD BECOME OF FUNDS COLLECTED BY MUZOREWA IN EUROPE IN NAME OF ANC. SAID AT APPROPRIATE TIME HE WILL DEMAND ACCOUNTING FOR THESE FUNDS.

4. NKOMO DESCRIBED HIS MEETINGS WITH SERETSE KHAMA AND WITH NYERERE AS "WARM, FRIENDLY, AND VERY CONSTRUCTIVE." HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET PRESIDENT KAUNDA BEFORE GOING ON TO LOURENCO MARQUES VIA SALISBURY, ACCORDING TO ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL. END UNCLASSIFIED

5. CHANCE MEETING NOV. 18 WITH NKOMO DEPUTY JASON MOYO, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING NKOMO TALKS IN DAR, GAVE US OPPORTUNITY ASK HOW MEETING WITH NYERERE HAD GONE. MOYO CONFIRMED MEETING WAS FRIENDLY, CONSTRUCTIVE. SAID THAT NYERERE CONVINCED THAT TALKS WITH SMITH CANNOT SUCCEED BUT INDICATED TANZANIA WOULD NOT STAND IN WAY IF NKOMO WISHED PURSUE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS ROUTE. MOYO COMMENTED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NYERERE/MACHEL AND KAUNDA/KHAMA VIEWPOINTS ON RHODESIAN TALKS ARE NOT SHARP BUT RATHER REFLECT SOMEWHAT GREAT OPTIMISM OF LATTER TWO THAT SMITH WILL LISTEN TO VOICE OF REASON AND OPT FOR PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. ACCORDING MOYO, NYERERE WHILE IN LONDON WILL LIKELY PRESS BRITISH TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE APPROACH TOWARD WORKING OUT RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. MOYO HIMSELF SEEMED DUBIOUS BRITISH CAN OR WILL DO SO.

6. COMMENT: FROM NKOMO COMMENTS TO PRESS AND MOYO REMARKS TO US, WE HAVE IMPRESSION NKOMO RETURNED FROM DAR EVEN MORE CONFIDENT THAN WHEN WE SAW HIM LAST SATURDAY (REFTEL) THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITH SMITH ON THE BASES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. WITH NYERERE'S APPARENT NIHIL OBSTAT TO HIS EFFORTS CONTINUE SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NKOMO NOW HOLDS TENTATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAD IN ANC LEADERSHIP STAKES OVER INCREASINGLY DISUNITED FACTION LED BY MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE. PROVIDED NKOMO DOES NOT BUMP UP AGAINST IMMOVABLE RHODESIAN WHITE RESISTANCE TO PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE, PROSPECTS FOR GETTING CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS UNDERWAY BY END OF YEAR SEEM MODERATELY BRIGHT.
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